



# NEWS RELEASE

OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY  
WESTERN DISTRICT OF MISSOURI

**TODD P. GRAVES**

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **KC MAN SENTENCED TO 15 YEARS FOR ILLEGAL FIREARM**

**KANSAS CITY, Mo.** – Todd P. Graves, United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, announced that a Kansas City, Mo., man was sentenced in federal court today for being a felon in possession of a firearm.

**Russell D. Kirkland**, 46, of Kansas City, was sentenced by U.S. District Judge Howard F. Sachs this morning to 15 years in federal prison without parole. Because he has three previous convictions for violent felonies, Graves said, **Kirkland** was sentenced as an armed career criminal.

On June 7, 2005, **Kirkland** pleaded guilty to being a felon in possession of a firearm. **Kirkland** admitted that he was in possession of a Taurus .357-caliber magnum revolver on Feb. 12, 2005. Under federal law, Graves explained, it is illegal for anyone who has been convicted of a felony to be in possession of any firearm or ammunition. Anyone with three prior violent felony convictions may be considered an armed career criminal and subject to a mandatory minimum sentence of 15 years in federal prison without parole.

**Kirkland** has a 1975 criminal felony conviction for robbery/assault with a dangerous and deadly weapon (a blue steel revolver) in Jackson County, Mo., a 1976 criminal felony conviction for stealing from a person by striking the victim about the head with his fists in Jackson County, and a 1989 criminal felony conviction for robbery for forcibly stealing money from another person while armed with a deadly weapon in Jackson County.

This case was prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Christina Y. Tabor. It was investigated by the Kansas City, Mo., Police Department and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives.

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This news release, as well as additional information about the office of the United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, is available on-line at  
[www.usdoj.gov/usao/mow/index.html](http://www.usdoj.gov/usao/mow/index.html)